



Curriculum/Instruction

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Michael A. Fulton, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools
 Tim A. Pecoraro, Ed. D., Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Instruction

July 21, 2009

Ms. Ameenah Harrison
 12048 Wesco
 Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Dear Ms. Harrison,

I appreciate the time you have taken to make a citizen's request for reconsideration of educational material.

Your request has been given careful consideration by a Reconsideration Committee including the principal, Barry Nelson, a teacher, a parent, the librarian, and Dr. David Miller, district level library media coordinator. Each member of the committee read the book, *Yankee Girl*, and was briefed by Dr. Miller regarding the specific objections expressed in your request.

I have read your request and understand that your concerns are about statements on pages 13, 44 and 45. The committee has observed that while the specific objectives are considerable, they are contextually accurate in regard to the historical setting of the title. Given the book is a work of fiction based on the real events of the authors' life they are of significance to the story. The book, taken as a whole, is important as it can lead to conversation about racism and sexism. In addition, the title has significant merit due to the historical context, sense of realism, and emotional depth of the story. The book is about events that children, once they reach a certain level of maturity, should study and understand. The book is suitable for fourth grade through high school students.

After reviewing all the information, I am approving the committee's recommendation that the title, *Yankee Girl* by Mary Ann Rodman remain as part of the circulated library collection at Rose Acres School.

Again, I want to thank you for taking the time to share your concerns. If you have any questions, please contact me at 314-213-8007.

In conclusion, I wanted to let you know there is an appeal process. My decision can be appealed by presenting an appeal in writing to the superintendent of schools.

Sincerely,

Tim Pecoraro, Ed.D.
 Assistant Superintendent,
 Curriculum/Instruction

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|-------------------|------------------|---------|---------------------|------------|---|
| Post-it* Fax Note | 7671 | Date | 7/14/12 | # of pages | 3 |
| To | Charles N. Davis | From | David Miller | | |
| Co./Dept. | MM | Co. | Pattonville Schools | | |
| Phone # | | Phone # | 314-213-8060 | | |
| Fax # | 573-884-5400 | Fax # | 314-213-8660 | | |

Assessment & Library Services

Memorandum

TO: Tim Pecoraro

FROM: David W. Miller

DATE: June 3, 2009

RE: Library Material Reconsideration Committee Recommendation

Cc: Barry Nelson

On April 15, 2009, Ms. Ameenah Harrison, a parent, filed a Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Educational Material at Rose Acres School. The parent has a child enrolled at Rose Acres School. The original request is attached.

Per Policy KL-R, a Reconsideration Committee was formed consisting of Barry Nelson, principal; Karen Taylor, teacher; Jenna Jackson, parent; Debra Bicket, librarian and David W. Miller, coordinator. Each member of the committee read the specific book under reconsideration and was briefed by Dr. Miller regarding the district procedure and specific objections cited by the parent.

Dr. Miller and Mrs. Bicket provided information regarding availability of the book in the district and that it was a 2006-07 Mark Twain Award Nominee. Each member spoke to the specific objections listed by the parent. The committee members noted the following details:

- While the specific objections cited are considerable, they are contextually accurate in regard to the historical setting of the title. Given the book is a work of fiction based on the real events of the authors' life they are of significance to the story.
- The book, taken as a whole, is important as it can and should lead to conversation about racism and sexism.
- This title has significant merit due to the historical context, sense of realism, and emotional depth of the story.
- The book is about events that children, once they reach a certain level of maturity, should study and understand.
- The book is suitable for fourth grade through high school students.

The committee recommends that the title, *Yankee Girl* by Mary Ann Rodman remain as part of the circulated library collection at Rose Acres School.

PATTONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

EPS Code:
District Code:PSD 63
KL-R-E

CITIZEN'S REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

Title: Yankee Girl
 Author: Mary Ann Rodman
 Producer or Publisher: ESG
 Date: 2004
 Request initiated by: Ameenah Harrison
 Telephone: (314) 542-0411 Address: 12048 Wesco
 City: Maryland Heights Zip Code: 63043

Complainant represents:

- ☒ himself/herself
☐ (name of organization)
☐ (identify other group)

If objection is to material other than printed material (books, textbooks, pamphlets, etc.), change wording of the following questions so that they apply:

1. To what in the material do you object? (Please be specific, cite pages, if applicable.) Racial Slurs
"Nigger" appears on page 13, 3 times, on page 44 & 45 also. This also speaks
of the Klu Klux Klan and murdering people, inappropriate content for an
elementary school.
2. What do you feel might be the result of the student's use of this material? I feel that it is inappropriate
in the school setting. Some students may feel that this
word is OK to use since they've obtained the book from the
school library.
3. For what age group would you recommend this material? 16+
4. Is there anything good about the material?
5. Did you examine or read the material in its entirety? NO
 What parts did you view or read? After the first few pages, I stopped reading
when my fourth grade daughter complained of being "uncomfortable"
with what was written.
6. Are you aware of the judgment of this material by literary critics or subject area specialists?
yes
7. What would you like your library staff or textbook committee to do about this material?
☐ do not assign/lend it to my child
☐ withdraw it from all readers/students as well as my child
☒ send it back to the staff selection committee for reevaluation
8. In its place what material would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of the subject treated? books on civil rights or other books about that
time period that aren't using racial slurs to convey a point. I was
upset by my child's distress at reading this material. This is not somethin
that has ever had to be addressed in my household.

Adopted: February 23, 1982
 Reviewed: October 23, 2001